

Ralls Co. SWCD Staff

Martha Briscoe,
District Manager
Woody Holley,
District Technician
Paul Allgood,
District Clerk

NRCS Staff

Gary Noel,
District Conservationist
Tim Zedialis,
Soil Cons. Technician
Mac Ellis,
Resource Conservation-
ist/Wildlife
Lucas Brass
Resource Conservationist

MDC Staff

Tim Brooks,
Private Lands
Conservationist



Pike Co. SWCD Staff

Debbie Scherder,
Info/Ed., Dist. Clerk
Kris Pettey,
District Technician
Liz Harrelson,
District Bookkeeper

NRCS Staff

Gary Noel,
District Conservationist
Mike Pugh,
Soil Cons. Technician
Kimberly Sparks,
Soil Conservationist

MDC Staff

Tim Brooks,
Private Lands
Conservationist

Pike/Ralls Conservation News

February 2010



Soil & Water Districts Hold Supervisor Elections

sented by Jim Hubert, nomi-
nees are:

- Danny Hubert
- Joe Mahar

To serve as a Board Mem-
ber for the Soil & Water
Conservation District, a per-
son must be: a land repre-
sentative, a resident taxpay-
ing citizen within the SWCD
District for 2 years preced-
ing the election date, a co-
operator of the SWCD, and
reside in or own a farm lying
in the Area they wish to rep-
resent. Anyone qualified
and interested in serving as
a supervisor, who was not
nominated, may have their
name added to the ballot by
submitting a petition with at
least 10 signatures of land
representatives, 10 days
prior to the election.

Anyone owning land in Pike
County, that is assessed as
agricultural land, is eligible
to vote in this election.
Each landowner gets one
vote and each corporation
will get one vote from an owner
or legal land
representative.

For more infor-
mation, please
contact the Pike
County SWCD
at 573-324-
3201, ext. 3.

RALLS COUNTY

The Ralls County Soil and
Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors elec-
tion will be held in March 17,
2009. Polling hours will be
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 pm at the
Ralls County SWCD/NRCS
Office.

Anyone owning land in Ralls
County, with a Farm Service
Agency (FSA) Farm Number
or that is assessed as agri-
cultural is eligible to vote.
Each landowner gets one
vote and corporations get
one vote. The Supervisors
from areas I and III are up
for Election.

Area I includes Saline and
Clay Townships. Area III
includes the Center Town-
ship and the east half of Jas-
per Township. The candi-
dates are:

Ryan Hulse is running for the
Area I Supervisor position.
Ryan's farming operation
includes: corn, soybeans,
wheat, beef cow / calf cattle
and swine. Ryan is an active
member of the Big Creek
Presbyterian Church, and the
local Young Farmer Chapter,
and Farm Bureau. When asked
what is important in soil con-
servation Ryan said, "It is im-
portant to leave the land better
than we found it for the next
generation."

Both the
Pike County and Ralls
County Soil & Water Con-
servation Districts will be
conducting elections for
landowners to serve on
their District Boards of Su-
pervisors.

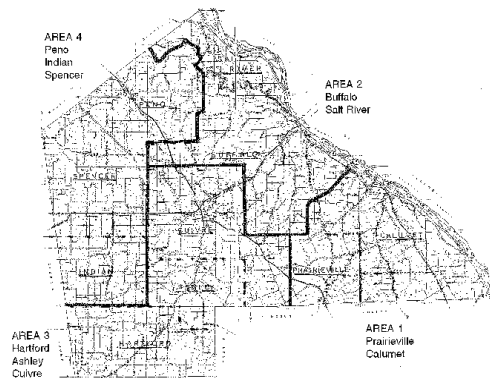
PIKE COUNTY

The Pike County Supervi-
sor Election will take place
at the USDA Service center
in Bowling Green from
12:00 noon until 4:00pm on
Friday, March 26; then
again from 9:00am until
12:00 noon at the Frank-
ford Elementary School in
Frankford, MO on Satur-
day, March 27.

Two seats will be up for
election. In **Area II**, cur-
rently represented by Char-
lie Becker, nominee is:

- Charlie Becker

In Area IV, currently repre-



Continued on Page 3

PIKE COUNTY COST SHARE SIGN-UP BEGINS MARCH 1

The Pike County Soil & Water Conservation District will be conducting a sign-up for state cost-share funds **March 1 through March 31, 2010.**

State cost-share funds are made available to local landowners to address erosion issues on land being used for agricultural purposes. According to the Missouri Soil & Water Districts Commission rules for cost-share eligibility (10 CSR70.4.010(J), a farm is defined as a tract of land three acres or more in size, on which agricultural activities are normally performed, or a tract of land of any size from which \$1000 or more of agricultural products are normally sold in a year.

Each application will be evaluated to determine whether it meets state cost-share guidelines, and will be ranked according to conservation benefits and cost effectiveness. Priority will be given to applications for practices in fields that are planted in wheat or no crop at all. Fields that can be worked in at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) will receive higher ranking than

those not available until after fall harvest. Funds will be appropriated during the fiscal year 2011 (beginning July 1, 2010), based on the above criteria. The number of applications approved will be determined by the allocation of state funds.

Our district will be offering cost-share on the same practices that we have cost-shared on in the past such as Permanent Vegetative Establishment, Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, Terrace Systems, No-Till Systems, Water Impoundment Reservoirs, Sediment Retention Structures, Waterways, Diversions, and Grazing Systems. In addition to these practices, our district will be offering some practices that are new to our county. These practices include Timber Harvest Plans, Restoration of Skid Trails, Field Borders, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Spring Development, Well Decommissioning, and Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement.

There is a limit of \$15,000 per landowner, per fiscal year for cost-share. This policy allows the dis-

trict to serve more landowners with the funds we are allocated each year.



Any practice applied for, but not funded for the next fiscal year, because of low ranking practice or lack of funds, will receive notification of non-approval, and can sign up again the following year.

Funding for the State Cost-Share Program is provided by the one tenth of 1% State Parks and Soils tax.

For a list of approved practices, contact the Pike county field office at (573)324-3201 ext. 3. Our hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

* As a reminder for those landowners who have received cost-share assistance in the past, it is critical that you maintain your practices. We are not authorized to cost-share on rebuilding or maintenance of existing cost-share practices.

Continuous Cost Share Sign-up for New Resources



In the past, the major focus of the Cost Share funding has been controlling soil erosion. While this continues to be an important concern, the Soil & Water Commission is now including another important resource concern to the general Cost Share Program: Water Quality. Previously, water qual-

ity issues were addressed mainly with AgNPS Salt Projects, in only certain counties. The Salt Project resources are now included with the regular Cost Share Program. Landowners and managers across the state will have equal access to funding to address their soil and water quality concerns. Pike County Landowners will be able to sign up for cost share, on a

continuous basis, for the following new resources: Nutrient Management, Timber Harvest, Restoration of Skid Trails, Field Borders, Well Decommissioning, and Spring Development.

If you are interested in learning more about these new practices, contact Kris Pettey, SWCD Technician at 573-324-3201, ext. 117.



NATURAL RESOURCES WORKSHOP For RURAL LANDOWNERS

Staff and Board Members from the Pike and Ralls Co. Soil & Water Conservation Districts, along with Pike County NRCS staff members, recently began planning for an informational Natural Resources Workshop for Pike and Ralls County agricultural landowners. The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 27, from 8:30am until 12:00noon, at the Frankford Elementary School in Frankford, MO, just off of Highway 61. The topics that will be presented are based on requests from recent surveys, and questions frequently asked in our respective field offices.

The following topics will be presented: USDA Programs, DNR State Cost Share Programs, Energize Missouri Agriculture, Pond

Maintenance, Wildlife Management, Nutrient & Pest Management, Conservation Planning, and Forestry. Agencies sending their local representatives are Pike County Soil & Water Conservation District, Ralls County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and University of MO Extension.

With the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, as well as decreasing local, state and federal tax revenues, most agency programs available to landowners have undergone significant changes. This workshop will provide agricultural landowners and operators the opportunity to meet

with representatives from these ag-related government agencies, and learn, first hand, about the programs and services available to assist them with their conservation needs and concerns.

Anyone interested in attending the Natural Resources Workshop, is asked to contact your local SWCD office (Pike – 573-324-3201, ext.3 or Ralls – 573-985-8611, ext. 3) by Friday, March 19, 2010, with your RSVP. In addition to the speakers having pertinent materials to hand out to participants, light refreshments will be available, so we need to know in advance how many will be in attendance.



RALLS CO. ELECTION (cont.)

He, his wife Leticia and sons live near Rensselaer. Ryan likes to go boating and spend time with his family.

Tuley Elliott is running for the Area I Supervisor position. Tuley's farming operation is basically corn, soybeans, and wheat rotation with 50 – 75% of his soybeans planted notill. He also subcontracts with the Corps of Engineers and helps them implement many of their conservation practices. When asked about what was important in conservation, Tuley said, "definitely notill and managing runoff." He also has concerns about ruts and erosion after fall tillage. Tuley has participated in the Route J Atrazine Abatement Project for years by planting test plots. He

is a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Tuley also volunteers at the Nutrition Center.

David Gibson is running for the Area III Supervisor position. Gibson is a row crop grain farmer. He and one, of three, sons raise Corn, Soybeans, and Wheat using minimum tillage. When discussing his role as a SWCD Supervisor, Mr. Gibson stated, "Since using Terraces and Waterways, I can see the benefits of these practices on my farm and would like to encourage other landowners to use these practices".

Wallace Hart is running for the Area III Supervisor position. Wallace's farming operation is primarily grain crops including soybeans,

corn and wheat, which is primarily planted by notill. When asked about what is important in soil conservation he said, "I feel preservation of the soil and keeping it productive is important." Wallace is on the Board of Directors of Ralls County Mutual Insurance. He and his wife Phylcia live near Center.

Present Board members are Richard Wasson Jr. Chairman, Area III, John Roy Chipman, Area II, Ryan Hulse, Area I, and David Palmer, Area IV, and Al Kennett, University of Missouri Extension Representative.

If you have any questions about the Supervisor Elections please contact the Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District at 573-985-8611 ext 3.

Pike/Ralls FOSA Welcomes Gary Noel as New District Conservationist



Gary Noel, NRCS

District Conservationist

Pike Co. 573-324-3201

Ralls Co. 573-985-8611

The USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service is pleased to welcome its' new District Conservationist, Gary Noel. Gary has accepted the position of Team Leader for the Pike / Ralls Counties Field Office Service Area, replacing Charlie R. Wright, Sr., who retired after a 40 year career with NRCS, in January, 2009. Gary and his family live in the New London area. Even though Gary is new to this position in Pike County, he is no stranger to this area, or to NRCS. For the past 7 years, he has served as the Soil Scientist for NRCS Area II. Area II encompasses 29 counties in Missouri, which includes Pike and Ralls County. Anyone who has attended a Soil Judging Contest or Outdoor Classroom in Pike or Ralls County over the past 15 years, will recognize Gary, as he has participated in many educational activities and assisted with many of our soil investigations. Gary began his career as a DNR Soil Scientist in 1980. In 1983, he joined the NRCS ranks as a Soil Conservationist in St. Joseph, MO. Gary was stationed in West Plains, MO in 1985, and in 1986 he was named the District Conservationist for Fredricktown and Ironton, MO. He served as District Conservationist and Resource Conservationist for the Ralls County Field Office, from 1987, until he accepted the appointment as the Area II Soil Scientist in 2002. Gary is stationed in the Pike County Field Office, but will share his time between Pike County and the Ralls County NRCS Office.

2010 STEWARDSHIP WEEK

By Paul Allgood, Clerk, Ralls SWCD

The National Association of Conservation Districts have announced, "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats" as their Stewardship Week theme. April 25-May 2, 2010 are the dates chosen for the National Stewardship Week. During Stewardship Week, Ralls County SWCD provides materials to local churches, county schools, and sponsors the annual Third and Fourth Grade Poster Contest. The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about Soil, Water and related natural resource issues through Art.

Last year's Poster Contest winners were: 3rd Grade Grand Prize Winner was, Mary Lou Cummings of Mrs. Simpson's Class, Center Elementary. 4th Grade Grand Prize Winner was, Kelsey Keil, of Mrs.



Gatson's Class, Center Elementary.

Richie Wasson Jr. is Chairman of Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District, (SWCD). The District was formed to assist people in Ralls County.

Ralls County SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts,

(www.nacdnet.org) which oversees the Stewardship Week program.

For information about Stewardship Week and Conservation, contact Paul Allgood at Ralls County SWCD at 573-985-8611, Ext. 3. paul.allgood@swcd.mo.gov You can visit www.nacdnet.org to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.

Pike Co. SWCD 16th Annual Outdoor Classroom

Over 500 elementary students attended the annual Natural Resources Outdoor Classroom, held September 12, 13 & 14, at the Bowling Green City Park. Each day, students visited 6 different stations, offering displays, demonstrations and presentations on natural resource concerns that are included in their grade-level curriculums. Several local, state and federal agencies, as well as adult volunteers, shared their expertise with

our local school children. The Pike Co. Soil & Water Conservation District sponsors the Outdoor Classroom each year, as well as a letter writing contest for the participants. Students are invited to write a letter to the District explaining what they learned, and why it is important. Ten letters are selected to receive a \$5 cash award, and approximately 20 more students receive an honorable mention certificate.



Mike Christensen, MDC Agent teaches students snake safety.

ENERGIZE MISSOURI AGRICULTURE

Missouri Department of Natural Resources, NRCS Energy Center and Soil and Water Conservation Program is offering up to \$3 million in cost-share grants to agricultural operations statewide for agricultural energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. Funding is provided by the U. S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The grants will fund up to 75% of the cost of an energy saving project up to \$5,000 per applicant. Some eligible projects include solar powered water systems such as pumps, panels, pipe, tanks or solar powered fences: global positioning system for tractors, combines and sprayers; and irrigation equipment improvements.

Farmers are encouraged to apply for the grants on the web at, <http://dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissouriagriculture.htm>.

Applications will be accepted by the Energy Center until April 20, 2010. Applications will be reviewed, and operators will be notified after April 20, 2010, if their projects are selected for funding. Information is also available from University Extension Offices.

Applications are available at Ralls Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), 17623 HWY. 19, New London, Missouri 63459 Ph.573-985-8611, Ext. 3; and the Pike Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, 1220 S. Bus. 61, Bowling Green, MO, 573-324-3201, ext. 3.

CAFO PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

In 2010, permitted animal feeding operations in Missouri will need to start the process of renewing their permits. Many changes have been made to state and federal CAFO regulations. Missouri Department of Natural Resources and University of Missouri, are offering workshops in various locations throughout the state, to provide producers a chance to learn about the changes. An extensive question and answer session will allow participants to determine how these changes will affect their operations. For more information, contact John Lory — loryj@missouri.edu, or call 573-882-0378.

March 1, 1:00 MU, Mt. Vernon
 March 2, 1:00 Library, Dexter, MO
 March 4, 1:00 Park, Macon, MO
 March 4, 7:00 4H Center, Mexico, MO
 March 5, 1:00 NC MO College, Trenton, MO
 March 8, 1:00 Farm Credit, Sedalia, MO
 March 8, 7:00 Community Center, Eldon, MO

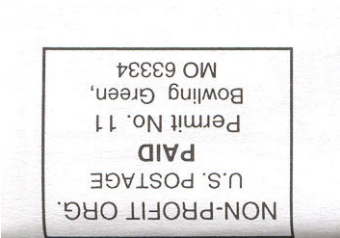
UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1—31		Pike Cost Share Sign-up
March 2	1:00pm	Pike Co. Bd. Mtg.
March 17	12:00-6:00	Ralls Election
March 17	7:00	Young Farmers—Ralls Co.
March 23	7:30pm	Ralls Co. Bd. Mtg.
March 26	12:00pm-4:00	Pike Election
March 27	9:00am	Nat. Res. Workshop
March 27	9:00am-12:00	Pike Election
April 6	8:00pm	Pike Co. Bd. Mtg.
April 27	7:30pm	Ralls Co. Bd. Mtg.



Rails Co. Supervisors
Ritchie Wasson
John Roy Chipman
Albert Kennett
David Palmer
Ryan Hulise
Pike Co. Supervisors
Jim Hubert
Charlie Becker
Rick Merritt
Wayne Shannon
Kenneth Turpin

Pike & Rails County SWCD
1220 S. Business Hwy. 61
Bowling Green, MO 63334

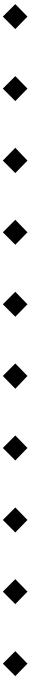


PIKE COUNTY LANDOWNER NAMED CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Mr. Charles Drury has been selected by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, as the state's Conservationist of the Year for 2009. The CFM honors individuals and groups who exemplify conservation and preservation of rural and agricultural land. In addition to being a dedicated steward of the land he owns, Mr. Drury supports many conservation organizations that promote wildlife and natural resources. Currently, the



land that Mr. Drury owns in Pike County is enrolled in the Wildlife Conservation Program, the Forest Stewardship Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and he is actively applying a Conservation Farm Plan. Congratulations, Mr. Drury, and keep up the good work!



Kimberly Sparks is New Soil Conservationist For Pike County NRCS

Hi, my name is Kimberly Sparks,

I am the new soil conservationist for Natural Resource Conservation Ser-

vices here in Bowling Green, I started in June, 2009. I am originally from Montgomery City; I recently graduated from the University of Central Missouri this past May with an Agriculture Business Degree. While I was a student at UCM I worked for NRCS as a student trainee and worked in the following counties: Montgomery, Warren, Cooper, Howard, and Johnson counties. I look forward to meeting and working with all of the producers here in Pike County. If you have any questions dealing with your Conservation Plan or any of our programs including EQIP, WHIP, WRP, and CSP I would be happy to help you with them. Feel free to call or stop by.